

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A mechanical device for simultaneously drawing plastic films in ~~the~~a longitudinal direction and in ~~the~~a transverse direction, with ~~the use of~~ successive grippers for holding, transporting and drawing the ~~film~~films, the grippers being supported and guided by rails and driven forward by ~~virtue of~~ an endless chain connecting the grippers together, the endless chain being driven by means of one or more sprockets, ~~characterized in that it comprises, on each side of the film that is to be drawn, comprising:~~

~~an~~the endless chain guided on two rails of variable ~~separation,~~ ~~separation on each side of a film to be drawn,~~ the endless chain ~~consisting of~~comprising a succession of links articulated to one another about vertical pins, the

~~the grippers being~~~~that~~ are connected to one pin ~~in~~two or mounted between two ~~of the succession of~~links, and protruding on one side of the ~~chain,~~ ~~endless chain~~ being guided on one of the two rails, ~~while~~and

~~a plurality of~~ guide pieces ~~that~~ are connected to one pin ~~in~~two or mounted between two ~~links,~~ ~~of the succession of~~links and between the grippers,

~~and wherein the guide pieces move along the other of the two rails such that according to the separation and/or to the variation in separation of these two rails the so that the successive links of the chain are more or less aligned or, on the other hand, either substantially aligned or make angles with respect to one another so as to fix and/or modify to fix or modify the distance between the successive grippers.~~grippers, and

~~wherein the mechanical device includes mechanical means for locally modifying the separation of the two rails and their angles of convergence, so as to adjust the longitudinal and transverse draw ratios during production.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The simultaneous drawing device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the grippers have bodies articulated about one ~~in two of the vertical hinge pins~~ of the successive links of the chain, ~~whereas and wherein~~ the guide pieces are articulated about the other vertical hinge pins of the successive links of the chain which are situated between the previous hinge pins.

3. (Currently Amended) The simultaneous drawing device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the two rails of variable separation are ~~of the "monorail" type, monorails, and in that wherein~~ the bodies of the ~~grippers on the one hand, grippers,~~ and the guide pieces ~~on the other hand, are equipped with~~ comprise vertical-axis rollers rolling along the two lateral faces of the corresponding rail and with at least one horizontal-axis roller rolling along the top of the corresponding rail.

4. (Currently Amended) The simultaneous drawing device as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that, ~~on each gripper body and on each guide piece, wherein~~ the lateral rollers comprise, ~~on each side of the rail, on each gripper body and on each guide piece comprise~~ two upper rollers and two lower ~~rollers~~ rollers on each side of the rail.

5. (Currently Amended) The simultaneous drawing device as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that wherein the two upper rollers and the two lower rollers have a slight vertical offset, ~~as do the two lower rollers,~~ so that they can be imbricated.

6. (Currently Amended) The simultaneous drawing device as claimed in ~~claim 1, in claim 1, characterized in that, particularly in divergent portions of the two chains, placed one on each side of the film, wherein~~ the two rails converge such that the angles between the successive links of the chain will gradually open up, and the successive grippers will diverge from one another, thus drawing the film in the longitudinal direction and in the transverse direction.

7. (Currently Amended) (Currently Amended) The simultaneous drawing device as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that wherein the two rails are parallel to one another and another, parallel to the direction in which the film is transported, and have a maximum separation, in a film-preheating region situated upstream of the drawing region, and in that these two rails are parallel to one another and parallel to the direction in which the film is transported and have a minimum separation in a stabilizing region situated downstream of the drawing region.

8. (Canceled).